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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,688

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

ZHENG WEI

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Remarks

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/21/2008 has been entered.
2. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 02/21/2008.
3. Claims 1, 6, 14-16, 24, 29 and 37-40 have been amended.
4. The objection to claims 1, 6, 24 and 38 is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
5. The 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection to claims 1-13 and 16-28 is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
6. The 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection to claims 15 and 39-42 is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.
7. Claims 1-42 remain pending and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicants' amendment filed on 02/21/2008 changes the scope of the claims 1-42 and a new ground of rejection is applied. The Applicants' arguments with

respect to claim 1-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 29-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 29:

Claim recites terms "a template" and "templates". It is not clear to the Examiner what the differences between these terms are. For the purpose of compact prosecution, the examiner treats them as the same term as "template".

Claims 30-36:

Claims 30-36 depend on claim 29. Therefore, they are also rejected for the same reason.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

11. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

12. Claims 1-13, 16-23 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 6, 16 and 38:

These claims claim apparatus, which comprise a build management logic, library.... Such claimed logic/library are software program components and they do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer, which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized. Therefore, said claims are not statutory. See MPEP 2106.01(I)

Claims 2-5, 7-13, and 17-23:

Claims 2-5, 7-13 and 17-23 are dependent claims. These claims all fail to remedy the 35 USC 101 nonstatutory problem of claim 15. Therefore, they are also rejected for the same reason.

--These rejections can be overcome by adding computer hardware components e.g., memory, and processor into the claims that permit the computer program's functionality to be realized.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

14. Claims 1-5 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kroening (Kroening et al., US 6,080,207, now is made of record)

Claim 24:

Kroening discloses an apparatus for generating configuration instructions used to build a programmable machine, comprising:

- A build management logic configured to automate building by interacting with a library(bill of materials)
- the library having:
 - a plurality of objects representing aspects of a configuration process for a specific collection of programmable machines (see for example,col.4, lines 8-18, "The bill of materials includes a customer's selection of a desired software configuration for a particular computing system.); and
 - a plurality of parameters associated with respective objects, wherein at least one of the parameters includes an unspecified value (see for example, col.4, lines 8-18, "Included within the bill of materials are hardware parameters of computing system to be receiving...including

BIOS and CMOS settings plus other pertinent information as may be necessary" also see col.4, lines 30-44, "Specifics on the computing system include, but are not limited to the following parameters, hard drive size, installed accessories, current software configuration, BIOS and CMOS settings. Information corresponding to the bill of materials as generated by the order entry system is applied to the image builder over interface 17" and related text); and

- build management logic configured to specify a set of objects from the library to implement the configuration of the programmable machine, and to generate the configuration instructions from the set of objects including determining the value of the unspecified value(see for example, col.4, lines 46-60, "The image builder 20 is coupled to the order entry system 15 via interface 17 for receiving the bill of materials which provides pertinent information for creating or building an image of the desired software configuration" and related text)
- providing packages which are collections of objects in a database assembled to be transferred from a site to another site (see for example, col.4, lines 46-60, "...the image builder 20 sorts through a database of stored images..."; also see col.6, lines 34-50, "After the image builder 20 has created an image of the desired software configuration, the image is passed from the storage device 30 to an image server40..." and related text);

- providing templates (baseline) to provide a skeleton representation of a machine or a group of machines and the templates may be exported and transferred to other sites to generate configuration instructions at the other sites (see for example, col.4, lines 46-60, "If the image of the desired configuration has not previously been created, the image builder 20 selects an appropriate baseline image from the storage device 30..." and related text)
- wherein generating configuration instructions for the specific combination of programmable machines (see for example, col.4, lines 46-60, "...then determines which incremental images are to be layered on top of the baseline image to achieve the desired final configuration" and related text); and
- the build management logic is further configured to provide an user interface to manage data assignment for the specific collection of programmable machines, wherein the user interface accepts input and returns output (see for example, col.4, lines 42-44, "the bill of materials as generated by the order entry system is applied to image builder over interface 17..." also see Fig.1, item 15 and 17)

Claim 25:

Kroening discloses the method according to claim 24, wherein the set of objects from the library have a hierarchical order, and wherein the at least one parameter that includes the unspecified value is associated with an object located at a defined level within the hierarchal order (see for example, col.4, lines 8-18, "BIOS

and CMOS settings"; also see Fig.2, step 204, "calculated config ID of all entries" and related text).

Claim 26:

Kroening also discloses the method according to claim 25, wherein the build management logic is configured to determine the unspecified value by determining the value from an object that is higher in the hierarchical order than the defined level ((see for example, step 204, "calculated config ID of all entries" and related text)).

Claim 27:

Kroening further discloses the method according to claim 24, wherein the at least one parameter that includes the unspecified value comprises an expression that identifies a location to determine the value, and wherein the build management logic is configured to specify the value by accessing the location specified in the expression (see for example, col.7, lines 16-20, "The image builder 20 starts with the top record and calculates a configuration identification (ConFig.ID) of all the entries" and related text).

Claim 28:

Kroening discloses a computer readable storage medium executed on a computing device having data structures and machine readable instructions for

implementing the library and the build management logic of claim 24 (col.10, lines 1-18)

Claims 1-5:

Claims 1-5 are apparatus version (see for example, Fig.1, a system for creating and delivering a disk image corresponding to a desired software configuration), which recites the same limitations of those method claims in claims 24-27, wherein all claimed limitations have been address and/or set forth above. Therefore, as the references teach all the limitation of claims 24-27, they also teach the limitations of claims 1-5.

15. Claims 6, 8-13, 29 and 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dewhurst (Dewhurst et al., US 6,430,609, now is made of record)

Claim 29:

Dewhurst discloses a method for generating configuration instructions used to build a programmable machine, comprising:

- Providing a library having generic objects representing aspects of a configuration process for a specific collection of programmable machines(see for example, fig.7, step 130, "Master Config File (Array of Config Variables)" and related text);
- Building blocks in the library form a hierarchical organization of objects that are representative of machines to be configured at a site (see for

example, col.4, lines 33-38, "a master configuration file containing an array of configuration variable controlling the execution of the software application"; also see col.4, lines 50-53, " a plurality of master configuration files " and related text);

- Wherein the building blocks provide configuration instructions for a specific collection of machines, grouping the building blocks into different categories, objects pertaining to different available vendors, the objects pertaining to different operating systems, the objects pertaining to different machine functions, and the objects related to stages and phases involved in configuring machines (see for example, col.4, lines 59-65, "additional steps include storing in the master configuration file access instructions to a plurality of computational servers available to execute the software application, configuration settings for displaying a plurality of languages in the client user interface..." and related text);
- Generating configuration instructions used to build the programmable machine by organizing the generic objects in the library based on a framework established by a template (see for example, Fig.7, step 140, 150, "Subset of Config Variable", "Write to Template file" and related text).
- wherein generating configuration instructions for the specific combination of programmable machines (see for example, Fig.7, step 180, "Apply subset to Config Variables to Master Config" and related text; also see);

- providing packages which are collections of objects in a database that are assembled to be transferred from a site to another site (see for example, col.5, lines 4-9, "Queuing data may be stored to establish a relative execution priority of the plurality of subsets and a processing states report may be transmitted to the client user interface...");
- providing templates to give a skeleton representation of a machine or a group of machines and the templates may be exported and transferred to other sites to generate configuration instructions at the other sites (see for example, Fig.8, step 210, "template store" and related text);
- providing a user interface to manage data assignment for the specific collection of programmable machines, wherein the user interface accepts input and returns output (see for example, Fig.9, user interface and related text; also see ABSTRACT, "generating the client user interface to modify ...", "...producing an output result, and transmitting the output result to the client computer")

Claim 31:

Dewhurst discloses the method according to claim 29, wherein the build management logic is configured to transfer the template to another user, or receive the template from the other user (see for example, Fig.8, steps 50, 160, "Client Machine", "Template store" and related text).

Claim 32:

Dewhurst also discloses the method according to claim 29, wherein the build management logic is configured to transfer the template to a head-end site, or receive the template from the head-end site (see for example, Fig.8, steps 50, 160, "Client Machine", "Template store" and related text).

Claim 33:

Dewhurst further discloses the method according to claim 29, wherein the build management logic is configured to encapsulate information obtained from the library and the template in a package, and to transfer the package to another site (see for example, Fig.7, steps 130-160, and related text).

Claim 34:

Dewhurst also discloses the method according to claim 29, wherein the build management logic is configured to generate a plurality of sets of configuration instructions to build a respective plurality of programmable machines (see for example, col.12, lines24-34, "User input is then received 170 by the application server and applied to the master configuration file by parsing machines readable identifiers in the master configuration file and replacing them with user-defined value")

Claim 35:

Dewhurst further discloses a method according to claim 34, wherein the build management logic is configured to generate a synchronization file (rule macro) that specifies a manner in which the configuration of each machine in the plurality of programmable machines impacts other machines within the plurality of programmable machines (see for example, Fig.7, item 155"Status Report Config" and related text; also see col.11, lines 49-53, "status report configuration 155")

Claims 6 and 8-13:

Claims 6 and 8-13 are apparatus version (see for example, Figs. 4-6 and 8, system) which recite the same limitations of those method claims in claims 29 and 31-36, wherein all claimed limitations have been address and/or set forth above. Therefore, as the references teach all the limitations of claims 29 and 31-36, they also teach the limitations of claims 6 and 8-13 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 15, 36 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewhurst (Dewhurst et al., US 6,430,609)

Claim 15:

Claim 15 is a computer program product version of the claimed method, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed in claims 29 above. It is well known in the computer art that such method steps can be implemented as computer program and can be practiced and /or stored on a computer operable media. Thus, it also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above.

Claim 36:

Claim 36 is another computer program product version of the claimed method, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed in claims 29 above. It is well known in the computer art that such method steps can be implemented as computer program and can be practiced and /or stored on a computer operable media. Thus, it also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above.

Claim 40-41:

Claims 40-41 is another computer program product version of the claimed method, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed in claims 29, 31-36 above respectively. It is well known in the computer art that such

method steps can be implemented as computer program and can be practiced and /or stored on a computer operable media. Thus, they also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above.

18. Claims 7, 30 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewhurst (Dewhurst et al., US 6,430,609) in view of Jacquemot (Jacquemot et al., US 2004/0003388)

Claim 30:

Dewhurst discloses the method according to claim 29, but does explicitly disclose that the template is expressed in a markup language and has a form defined by a schema. However, Jacquemot in the same analogous art of preparation of a software configuration discloses using an XML type programming language (see for example, p.1, paragraphs[0007], [0016] and [0022]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use XML to write template files in Dewhurst' teaching. One has motivation to use XML, because it is simple, standard and flexible in use as suggested by Jacquemot (see for example, p.1, paragraph [0007], "a form which is simple, standard a flexible in use")

Claim 7:

Claim 7 is a computer program product version of the claimed method, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed in claims 30 above. It is well

known in the computer art that such method steps can be implemented as computer program and can be practiced and /or stored on a computer operable media. Thus, they also would have been obvious in view of reference teachings above.

Claim 42:

Dewhurst the computer readable medium according to claim 40, but does not explicitly disclose the schema is a markup language schema. However, Jacquemot in the same analogous art of preparation of a software configuration discloses using an XML type programming language (see for example, p.1, paragraphs[0007], [0016] and [0022]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use XML to write template files in Dewhurst' teaching. One has motivation to use XML, because it is simple, standard and flexible in use as suggested by Jacquemot (see for example, p.1, paragraph [0007], "a form which is simple, standard a flexible in use")

19. Claims 14 , 16-23 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suorsa (Suorsa et al., US 7,152,109 B2)

Claim 14:

Suorsa discloses a system for generating configuration (provision) instructions used to build a programmable machine, comprising:

- a head-end site (see for example, Fig.7, element 31 and related text), including:
 - head-end logic configured to interact with a remote client site (see for example, Fig.7, element 38, "communication Gateway" and related text); and
 - a central database coupled to the head-end logic, the central database containing at least one package that specifies configuration instructions (see for example, Fig.7, element 32, "Central Database" and related text), said at least one package including:
 - a plurality of objects representing aspects of a configuration process (see for example, col.9, lines 54-55, "This database comprises a repository of all pertinent information about each of the devices");
 - a plurality of parameters associated with respective objects (see for example, col.9, lines 60-61, "The information stored in this database comprises all data that is necessary to provision a device"); and
 - at least one template(model) for organizing the plurality of objects in accordance with a predetermined framework (see for example, col.15, lines 14-16, "the model for the intended configuration"); and
- a configuration site (see for example, Fig.7, devices 1...N and related text), including:

- a local database for storing configuration instructions used to configure at least one machine associated with the configuration site (see for example, Fig.7, element 36, "agent" and related text); and
 - logic configured to receive and store said at least one package in the local database (see for example, Fig.10 and also see col.10, lines 39-40, "the agent 36 communicate with the central file system... to retrieve the required packages")
 - logic configured to generate configuration instructions used to configure at least one programmable machine based on said at least one package (see for example, col.10, lines 44-46, "commands can also be sent to the agent to instruct it to remove certain software, to configure the network portion of the operating system...").
- Wherein a group of interrelated machines may be built by downloading one or more packages from one site to another site; wherein the configuration of the machines may be changed by loading another package to generate new configuration instructions for dissemination to the machines (see for example, Fig.9, different bundle including different package for different configuration device and also see Fig.5 and related text; also see Fig.7, item 39 "browser" and col.15, lines 28-41, "...it is possible to reconfigure a device separately from the model... Thereafter, these changes are disseminated to all of the other devices which have the same roles as the one which was changed)

But does not explicitly disclose the head-end site provides web pages to assist in retrieving a resource. However, Suorsa also discloses an external browser that can connect to the device (site) and change the configuration (see for example, Fig.7, item 39, "browser" and related text; also see, col.15, lines 28-41) and further to obtain and install the appropriate software (see for example, col.10, lined 31-38, "...when the automated provisioning of a device is to be performed, a command is sent to an agent 36 on the device, instruction it to obtain and install the appropriate software"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use browser (web pages) to configure the site (agent) to retrieving a resource (obtain/install software).

Claim 16:

Suorsa discloses an apparatus for generating configuration instructions used to build a programmable machine, comprising:

- A build management logic configured to automate building by interacting with a library, wherein the library includes building blocks to provide configuration instructions for a specific collection of machines (see for example, col.4, lines 21-33, "contains all information that is relevant to the provisioning of the devices. This information includes the hardware configuration of the devices, the software components that make up the various roles assigned to a

device, the configuration settings for those components, and logical information such as IP addresses and the like")

- the library having:
 - a plurality of generic objects representing aspects of a configuration process for the programmable machine (see for example, col.9, lines 54-55, "This database comprises a repository of all pertinent information about each of the devices"); and
 - a plurality of parameters associated with respective generic objects (see for example, col.9, lines 60-61, "The information stored in this database comprises all data that is necessary to provision a device");
 - a template providing a framework in combination with the library to reconstruct a description of the programmable machine (see for example, col.9, lines 47-52, "Two fundamental function are implemented by the provisioning network" and related description)
- build management logic configured to specify a set of objects from the library to implement the configuration of the programmable machine, and configured to generate the configuration instructions from the set of objects (see for example, col.10, lines 44-46, "commands can also be sent to the agent to instruct it to remove certain software, to configure the network portion of the operating system..."); and

- a user interface configured to allow a user to interact with the build management logic (see for example, Fig.7, element 40, "User Interface" and related text).
- Wherein the user interface displays predetermined templates to accept input in response to Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to the predetermined templates (see for example, Fig.7, element 40, "User Interface" and related text; also see col.14, "lines 4-20, "predefined script" and related text)

But does not explicitly disclose grouping the building blocks (all information that is relevant to the provisioning of the devices) into different categories, such as objects pertaining to different available vendors, the objects pertaining to different operating systems, the objects pertaining to different machine functions, and the objects related to stages and phases involved in configuring machines. However, Suorsa also discloses such information is saved in the central database and using structured query language (SQL) (see for example, col.11, lines 37-62, "SQL server"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use SQL server to store/group the configuration information in different database tables/categories for efficient retrieving relate configuration information from the central database.

Claim 17:

Suorsa further discloses the apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the user interface further includes a tree display section configured to display objects organized as a hierarchical tree (see for example, Fig.9, "Rol XYZ" and related text).

Claim 18:

Suorsa discloses the apparatus according to claim 17, and further discloses wherein the user interface further includes a parameter display section configured to display information pertaining to parameters that are associated with at least one of the objects in the tree display section (see for example, col.12, lines 29-31, "Rather, through the user interface, the operator first modifies the model for that device which stored in the database").

Claim 19:

The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the user interface further includes a properties display section configured to display properties of at least one of the objects in the tree display section or at least one parameter in the parameter display section (see for example, col.12, lines 29-31, "Rather, through the user interface, the operator first modifies the model for that device which stored in the database").

Claim 20:

Suorsa also discloses the apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the build management logic includes logic configured to display ownership information at user interface. (see for example, col.17, lines 34-35, "Once the customer tier identification number has been determined"),

Claim 21:

Suorsa further discloses the apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the build management logic includes logic configured to display version information associated with information stored in the library (see for example, col.12, lines 34-41, "Preferably, the version history of the module is stored as well").

Claim 22:

Suorsa further discloses the apparatus according claim 16, wherein the build management logic further includes logic configured to restrict a user's right to manipulate information stored in the library based on the user's membership in one of a plurality of groups (see for example, col.13, lines 52-55, "The definition of the roles to be assigned to a device and stored in the database 32 is carried out through the user interface 40. The different roles can be associated with different access rights, to thereby affect their ability to be manipulated.")

Claim 23:

Suorsa also discloses the apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the build management logic includes logic configured to apply validation rules to the entry of parameter information to determine whether the entered parameter information meets predetermined criteria (see for example, col.14, lines 37-39, "Thus, the present invention provides a technique whereby the validity of a message or a command transmitted to an agent may be verified").

Claims 37-39:

Claims 37-39 are directed to an apparatus, a method and a computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, which recites the same limitation of the method claim and apparatus in claims 14 and 16 above respectively, wherein all claimed limitations have been address and/or set forth above. Therefore, as the reference teaches all the limitation of claim 14 and 16, they also teach the claims 37-39.

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zheng Wei whose telephone number is (571) 270-1059 and Fax number is (571) 270-2059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571- 272-1000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Z. W./

Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192